



## Maricopa County

### News Release

Department of  
Public Health  
1825/45 E. Roosevelt St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
Phone: 602-506-6900  
Fax: 602-506-6885  
[www.maricopa.gov/public  
\\_health](http://www.maricopa.gov/public_health)

For additional information: Doug Hauth, Public Information Officer  
(602) 506-4926, Pager (602) 205-3002

April 7, 2003

### **Suspect Case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Identified in Maricopa County**

Maricopa County Department of Public Health today announced a suspect case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) that meets CDC's criteria. The adult patient has been under the care and observation of a hospital physician since becoming ill and poses no public health threat. The patient had traveled to Hong Kong and became ill within a week after returning. The patient was hospitalized and is recovering.

"The general public does not appear to be at risk for infection from SARS due to this suspect case in Maricopa County," said Director of Public Health, Jonathan Weisbuch, M.D., M.P.H. "At this time, the only people who could potentially be at risk are health care workers caring for patients with SARS and close family contacts."

"We have been working for weeks with the Arizona Department of Health Services to ensure that the public and all healthcare providers in Maricopa County are informed of the symptoms of SARS, so we can respond to any suspect cases," said Dr. Weisbuch.

Arizona previously had a report of a case that met the CDC's definition briefly, but was subsequently ruled out.

SARS symptoms include coughing, fever (100.5 ° F. or higher), and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing in a person who traveled to Southeast Asia or had close contact with a SARS patient within 10-days of their symptom onset. People usually become sick within two to 10 days of coming in contact with a SARS patient.

Anyone who is experiencing these symptoms, and has recently traveled to Mainland China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, and Taiwan or has had close contact with a SARS patient should seek medical attention and inform doctors of their travel history.

For more information, log onto the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call the CDC Public Response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Espanol), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY).

## 30 ##